

Company wants to turn trash into treasure

California firm eyes Cheyenne and Laramie landfills as potential energy sources



By Jeff Truchot
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It has been said that one person's trash is another person's treasure, but if one California company has its way, trash in two Wyoming counties could soon start being turned into energy.

Renewable energy company Sierra Energy announced this week that it is targeting Wyoming's "most wasteful counties," where it will try to start turning landfills into energy sources using an "advanced molecular recycling" process.



The company's FastOx gasification process powers homes and fuels cars with trash. Auctions opened Wednesday for the exclusive rights to develop and distribute FastOx gasifiers in Laramie and Albany counties.

"Energy and the environment are two of Wyoming's most cherished resources, and the main topic of Governor (Matt) Mead's action plan, motivating Sierra Energy to focus here first," a release from the Davis, Calif.-based company.

"Wyoming could build a 6.5 foot wall around the state from the trash generated by its residents," said Mike G. Hart, CEO of Sierra Energy.

Hart said the "lion's share" of Wyoming's trash comes from its most-populated regions, and Laramie and Albany counties were two high-population areas that made them a natural place for his company to start work.

"If we take the waste generated in Wyoming and instead convert it to renewable energy, FastOx gasifiers could power all of the homes in Cheyenne," Hart said.

He said every ton of trash can emit twice as many tons of climate-warming greenhouse gases into our air and that Methane — a natural byproduct of decaying waste in landfills — is the most dangerous of these gases; 84 times more climate-polluting than carbon dioxide.

As trash bakes and breaks down in the sun, leachate—a toxic goo—seeps down into the ground, contaminating local water sources, the release said, "FastOx gasification offers a cleaner and sustainable solution to managing Wyoming's waste."

“We want to empower local communities and businesses to take control of their waste in a way that benefits our towns and respects our planet,” Hart said. “We have already spoken to hundreds of people internationally, but first we want to bring FastOx gasification to all 50 states, starting with Wyoming.”

Sierra Energy is a waste gasification and renewable energy company commercializing FastOx gasification, the release said. Powering homes and fueling cars with trash, FastOx gasification aims to eliminate landfills. Building its first commercial system with the U.S. Army, Sierra Energy provides a robust and scalable solution for managing and diverting waste.

